

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert M. Gates  
Chairman, National Intelligence Council  
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Request for Intelligence Community Analysis  
of the Geneva Summit Fusion Initiative on  
Multinational Cooperation

As a result of the Geneva Summit, the US is currently entering into consultations with the USSR on the possibility of an international magnetic fusion program. These consultations consist of an initial exploratory exchange of information and viewpoints only.

In order to facilitate US-Soviet consultations on the Geneva Fusion Initiative, avoid any unanticipated surprises, and provide reference material for continual policy assessment, the Department requests an IC study dealing with the political, economic, and technical aspects of the proposed program.

The purpose of the Geneva initiative was to enhance international fusion cooperation to the greatest practical degree so as to realize the benefits of this inexhaustible source of energy. The original Soviet proposal was to construct, in cooperation with other nations, a prototype fusion reactor. Because of national security and export control reasons, the topic is currently limited to magnetic rather than inertial confinement fusion. Participants could include the USSR, USA, Western European countries/EC, Japan, PRC, Canada, and Eastern European countries. Cooperation with the USSR is being discussed within the following four parameters:

- cooperation should be based on a thorough review of the status of existing fusion research;
- it would require full support of our key allies and the participation of other technically advanced countries;
- there should be equitable cost-sharing among all participants;

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The study should, among others, address the following questions:

Political

--Why did the Soviets decide to push international fusion cooperation with the US now?

--Does Moscow see this as a detraction from SDI?

Economic

--Do the Soviets see it as a means to get more domestic funding?

--Would the Soviets press ahead on the next big step in fusion (construction of an engineering test reactor) on their own?

--How does this tie into falling oil prices, decreased world oil demand, and Soviet long-term energy policies?

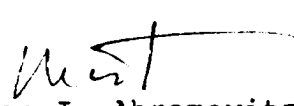
Technical

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--Does the Soviet call for international fusion cooperation mean they've hit a technical block, need Western engineering assistance?

We would like to have it completed within the next several months.

We have informally discussed this issue with Dr. Julian C. Nall, NIO for S&T, over the past few weeks and understand that OSWR is studying several aspects of this problem. In addition, DOE and DOD are also examining aspects of the issue independently. Hence, sufficient detail may already be available to allow for an expeditious IC study.

  
Morton I. Abramowitz

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